Revenue loss to Postal Department

271. SHRIMATI SHOBANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after coming down heavily on telecom operators carrying grey international long distance telephone calls, his Ministry has now started to crack down on courier companies who are allegedly bringing post from foreign countries into the country illegally;

(b) if so, whether a number of courier companies in the country were bringing in huge consignments of post from foreign countries and then injecting into the Indian postal network to avoid payment of terminal dues to postal department; and

(c) if so, the total revenue loss Government suffered and the steps taken to check this revenue loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Banking facility in Post Offices

272. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Post plans to introduce anywhere anytime banking facility and bring all retail services offered by post offices under one roof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal would be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All retail services offered by post offices are generally available under one roof. As regards the introduction of anywhere anytime banking facilities, it is at a conceptual stage.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

273. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges functioning in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Cuddapah district and their exchange-wise capacity as on date:

(b) whether Government propose to increase the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges and also to open some new telephone exchanges;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to exhaust the waiting list in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh is 3587 and the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Cuddapah District is 129. The exchange-wise capacity is given in the enclosed Statement, (See below).

(b) There is no capacity constraint in any of the exchanges, as such there is no proposal for opening new telephone exchanges.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The following steps are being taken to exhaust the waiting list:

(i) Wherever underground cable network exists landline connection are being provided. Small lengths of underground cable are also being laid wherever necessary.

(ii) 10 additional WLL Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) with capacity of 9000 lines were commissioned in 2005-06. During 1 st quarter of 2006-07, 3 WLL BTSs with a capacity of 2250 lines were commissioned. Another WLL BTS of 750 lines is likely to be commissioned in August, 2006.